United Nations A/57/7/Add.5

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 October 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 112
Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Implementation of projects financed from the Development Account

Sixth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account (A/57/360). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The report of the Secretary-General is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/237, by which the Assembly decided to continue to keep the implementation of the Development Account under review and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the subject to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

3. The Advisory Committee welcomes the streamlining of the presentation for the Development Account. The Committee recalls that, in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003, it referred to the modalities for financing of the account and requested the Secretary-General to provide a thematic impact analysis of the projects and to expand the relevant tables to include the date of commencement, projected date of completion and the implementing agency for the project (see A/56/7, paras. XIII.1-XIII.5). The Committee notes that information regarding progress on all projects under tranches one and two, including an evaluation of their impact, as well as information on the commencement dates, implementing agencies and anticipated dates of completion, is now posted on the United Nations Development Account web site (www.un.org/esa/devaccount). Information provided to the Committee in this regard is contained in annexes I and II to the present report.

4. Paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's report (A/57/360) indicates that, to date, 43 projects have been approved for implementation by the General Assembly at a total cost of $39.2 million. Moreover, as indicated in paragraph 2 and tables I, II

02-64485 (E) 171002

and III of the report, 7 projects were financed under the first tranche of 1998-1999, of which 69.9 per cent of planned expenditures had been made as of 30 June 2002; 16 projects were financed under the second tranche of 2000-2001, of which 55.9 per cent of planned expenditures had been made as of the same date; and 20 projects are being financed under the third tranche for 2002-2003, of which 4.9 per cent of planned expenditures had been made as of 30 June 2002. The Committee notes that, as of 30 June 2002, an amount of $17 million has been spent of the $39.2 million approved.

5. The Committee notes the information in section III of the report of the Secretary-General on issues regarding the delivery of projects and in tables I, II and III, which contain data in terms of expenditure as of 30 June 2002. The problems encountered in launching, programming, formulating, identifying completion dates and reporting are summarized in paragraphs 14 to 21. As indicated in paragraph 14, the start-up of the first two tranches of the Development Account was slow in view of the need to establish procedures and protocols for its operations. A majority of the projects, therefore, only became operational in 2000. In addition, as indicated in paragraphs 18 and 19, none of the projects had been completed by the end of 2001 and their completion dates are now foreseen as much as one or two years later than originally indicated, complicating, for the time being, the issue of proper assessment of impact and accomplishments. The Committee trusts, however, that, in future, it should be easier to submit clearer statements with regard to meeting the objectives in General Assembly resolutions 53/220 A and B.

6. The Committee notes the improvements made in connection with the management of the account, reported in paragraphs 7 to 10 of the report, such as those related to the support of the integrated monitoring of the Development Account projects. Paragraph 10 indicates that the Executive Committee for Economic and Social Affairs increasingly serves as collective manager of the Account. **The Committee cautions that the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs is ultimately accountable for the management of the Development Account and that the role of the Executive Committee should therefore be to provide overall guidelines.**

7. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/360). The Committee is of the opinion, however, that the report in connection with the Development Account should be submitted in the context of the presentation of the proposed programme budget.**

Annex I

Development Account projects funded from section 34 of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (General Assembly resolutions 53/220 A and B)

	Project title	*Implementing office*	*Actual commencement date*	*Completion date*
A	Promotion of electronic commerce	UNCTAD	July 1999	December 2003
B	Capacity-building in economic and policy analysis in Africa through the networking of expertise	ECA	July 1999	June 2003
D	Computer and telecommunication system for international and national drug control	UNIDCP	July 1999	December 2003
E	Capacity-building and networking for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in least developed countries	Habitat	July 1999	June 2003
F	On-line network of regional institutions for capacity-building in public administration and finance	DESA	August 1999	December 2003
G	Research network for economic policy analysis	DESA	February 2000	November 2002
H	Activities for capacity-building in developing countries in pursuance of the objectives of Agenda 21, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action	DESA	February 2000	December 2003

Annex II

Development Account projects funded from section 33 of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/C.5/54/37; General Assembly resolution 54/249, part IV)

	Project title	*Implementing office*	*Actual commencement date*	*Completion date*
A	Capacity-building in strategic planning and management of natural resources in Asia and the Pacific	ESCAP	March 2000	December 2003
B	Training programme on addiction rehabilitation and drug prevention in the workplace for Asia and the Pacific	UNIDCP	December 2000	December 2003
C	Capacity-building to improve water management and accelerate investments in the water sector	DESA/RC	May 2000	July 2003
D	Capacity-building in decision-making for sustainable development	DESA	September 2000	December 2003
E	Capacity-building for promoting gender equality in the African countries	DESA	November 2000	December 2004
F	Rational and efficient use of energy and water resources in Central Asia	ECE/ESCAP	May 2000	November 2003
G	Strengthening regional capacities for statistical development	DESA	August 2000	June 2003
H	Capacity-building and institutional development for equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities	DESA	September 2000	June 2004
I	Enhancing the economic and social development policy capabilities in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean	ECLAC	May 2000	June 2003
J	Development of a collaborative framework for integrated environment assessments and reporting for West Africa	UNEP	November 2000	July 2002

	Project title	*Implementing office*	*Actual commencement date*	*Completion date*
K	Sustainable waste management for African countries	UNCHS	November 2000	December 2003
L	Urban pollution of superficial and groundwater aquifers in Africa	UNEP/ECA	August 2000	September 2002
M	Capacity-building and policy networking for sustainable resource-based development	UNCTAD/UNU	March 2000	June 2002
N	Enhancing the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for effective integration in the multilateral trading system	UNCTAD	March 2000	June 2003
O	Capacity-building for debt sustainability analysis	UNCTAD	March 2000	December 2002
P	Capacity-building for diversification and commodity-based development	UNCTAD	March 2000	June 2003